

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01701 081207Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DHA-02 L-03 H-01 /030 W
-----081216Z 070983 /13

R 081136Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6676
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CASC, TU
SUBJECT: ANTAKYA THREE; U.S. PRISONERS IN TURKEY

1. ON MARCH 7 DCM CONTACTED MFA DEPSEC GEN FOR CONSULAR AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ASIROGLU, TO INQUIRE AS TO STATUS OF GOT'S STUDY OF POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING MEXICAN-TYPE TREATY WITH THE U.S. FOR MUTUAL REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS. DCM NOTED THAT OVER TWO MONTHS HAD PASSED SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD BROACHED SUBJECT TO MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT USG HAD NOW SIGNED A SIMILAR TREATY WITH CANADA. DCM SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MATTER WAS NOW UNDER STUDY IN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. ASIROGLU SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.
2. LATER SAME DAY, ASIROGLU GOT IN TOUCH WITH DCM TO REPORT THAT TREATY SUGGESTION WAS STILL BEING STUDIED BY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN STUDY WOULD BE COMPLETED.
3. COMMENT: WHILE LENGTHY STUDY OF A NEW PROPOSAL IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR CAUTIOUS GOT BUREAUCRACY, WE ARE BEGINNING

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TO BE CONCERNED AT LACK OF ANY INDICATORS OF POSITIVE GOT ATTITUDE TOWARD TREATY SUGGESTION. WE RECALL THAT LAST YEAR MINISTER OF JUSTICE FIRST DELAYED AND THEN BLOCKED SUBMISSION TO TURKISH PARLIAMENT OF PARDON PETITION FOR ANTAKYA GIRLS, DESPITE SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT EXTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST MINISTER MAY BE APPLYING SIMILAR DELAYING TACTICS TO TREATY PROPOSAL.

SINCE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN POSITION WITH FRIENDS OF ANTAKYA
GIRLS IN THE U.S. THAT TREATY ROUTE IS PREFERABLE,
I THINK WE SHOULD BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN OUR EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE FOR THIS FROM GOT.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, I
PLAN TO AVAIL MYSELF OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPHASIZE
TO FONMIN AND OTHER GOT LEADERS ADVANTAGES TO BOTH
COUNTRIES IF TREATY ROUTE ADOPTED AND THIS CONSTANT
IRRITANT TO U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS BE REMOVED ON TERMS
ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. I WILL MAKE FURTHER POINT
THAT SUCH A TREATY APPEARS TO US CONSISTENT WITH TURKISH
LAW NO. 647 AND TURKISH ADHERENCE TO EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON INTERNATIONAL VALIDITY OF CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS. I ALSO
RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE SAME LINE ON A CONTINUING
BASIS WITH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AND WITH OTHER TURKISH
LEADERS WHO MAY BE VISITING WASHINGTON IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, PENAL SYSTEM, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA01701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-0402
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacvvg.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 033d81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3182535
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTAKYA THREE; U.S. PRISONERS IN TURKEY
TAGS: PINS, CASC, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/033d81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009